

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5287

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3663

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BR US

SUBJECT: BRAZIL-US POLICY PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

1. IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM ESTABLISHED DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT HERE, AND WITH THE BROAD PURPOSE OF HELPING TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM FOR CLOSER CONSULTATIONS, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ANOTHER ROUND OF POLICY PLANNING CONSULTATIONS BE HELD, SIMILAR TO THOSE CARRIED OUT HERE IN LATE 1974. WE SUGGEST THAT IF POSSIBLE THE TALKS BE HELD, EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR BRASILIA, AS EARLY AS MAY OR JUNE.

2. WE CONSIDER THE INCLUSION OF THIS LONGER-RANGE COMPONENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE SYSTEM DESIRABLE AND NATURAL, AND EXPECT THAT WITH THE CREATION AFTER THE LAST TALKS OF A SMALL POLICY PLANNING GROUP IN FONMIN SILVEIRA'S CABINET, THE BRAZILIAN SIDE CAN PARTICIPATE WITH LESS PROFESSIONAL TIMIDITY AND CAUTION THAN IN THE PAST. WE BELIEVE THE BRAZILIANS WOULD WELCOME ANOTHER ROUND, AND THAT RESULTS COULD INCLUDE INSIGHTS INTO BRAZILIAN LONGER-RANGE THINKING AND THE EXTENT OF ITS CAPATIBILITY WITH OUR OWN, AND INFLUCE ON THE COURSE OF BRAZILIAN FORWARD PLANNING AS WELL AS THEIR INTELLECTUAL VOCABULARY. (HEAD OF THE POLICY PLANNING GROUP IS MINISTER HOLANDA CAVALCANTI, WHO IS FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRINCIPAL SPEECH WRITER.)

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3. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THE CENTRAL US INTEREST IN SUCH TALKS WOULD BE TO EXPLORE AT THE CONCEPTUAL LEVEL, THE IDEA OF BRAZIL AS AN EMERGING POWER (POTENCIA EMERGENTE) HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR HERE, AND WHAT IT COULD MEAN, OVER THE LONGER TERM, FOR BRAZIL'S ROLE ON SECURITY, NORTH-SOUTH, AND OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES; FOR BRAZIL'S EXPECTED POSITION AND INFLUENCE IN VARIOUS REGIONS, SUCH AS LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST; AND FOR ITS RESPECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS TO THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND THE LDC'S. MORE CURRENT SITUATIONS AND ISSUES COULD BE REVIEWED WITHIN THIS BROADER CONTEXT.

4. FOR THESE TALKS TO ACHIEVE THEIR MOST IMPORTANT PURPOSE--TO FORCE THE BRAZILIANS TO CLARIFY THEIR THINKING--IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT THAT, USING THE SOCRATIC APPROACH, WE ENCOURAGE THE BRAZILIAN SIDE TO DO MUCH OF THE TALKING, THAT WE SEEK TO DRAW THEM OUT THROUGH QUESTIONS BASED ON A CAREFUL STUDY OF AVAILABLE BRAZILIAN POLICY DOCUMENTS AND OUR ANALYSIS OF THEM. AS PART OF ITS FORMAL PRESENTATION, THE US SIDE COULD PRESENT CURRENT US ESTIMATES ON THE BROAD CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OVER THE NEXT FIFTEEN TO TWENTY YEARS, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A FRAME FOR THE DISCUSSION OF BRAZIL'S EVOLVING GLOBAL ROLE.

5. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE GLAD TO WORK WITH S/P AND ARA ON PREPARATIONS ALONG THESE LINES AND IS PREPARED TO BEGIN DISCUSSING DATES AND AGENDA WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS SOON AS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
JOHNSON

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